

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-11 and add new claims 12-22 as stated below.

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (New) A promotion method comprising the steps of:

issuing, from a point issuing unit to a user, point information related to predetermined points when a commodity is sold by an automatic vending machine;

adding system information about a distributor of the commodity to the point information issued from the point issuing unit in the point information issuing step;

sending the point information with the system information added in the system information adding step to a center unit together with identification information of the user by operations of a portable terminal carried by the user;

receiving, at the center unit, the point information and the identification information of the user sent in the point information sending step;

separately managing, by the center unit, services to be provided to the user according to the system information added to the point information received in the receiving step in association with the distributor of the commodity; and

providing a predetermined service to the user by referring to the services managed in the managing step.

13. (New) The promotion method according to claim 12, wherein the system information adding step comprises the step of adding the system information to the point information by the point issuing unit.

14. (New) The promotion method according to claim 12, wherein:

the point information is sent to the center unit through a system terminal disposed at the distributor of the commodity, and

the system information adding step comprises the step of adding the system information to the point information by the system terminal.

15. (New) The promotion method according to claim 12, wherein:

the point information includes at least one of a commodity code unique to the commodity, date information when the commodity is sold, price information of the commodity and an area code related to a place where a machine having sole the commodity is installed; and

the center unit collectively changes the services to be provided to the user according to at least one of a kind commodity, a date when the commodity is sold, a price of the commodity and a place where the machine having sold the commodity is installed.

16. (New) The promotion method according to claim 15, wherein:

the commodity code is added to the point information in correspondence with the number of a column of the automatic vending machine in which the commodity is stored.

17. (New) The promotion method according to claim 15, wherein the commodity code is added to the point information in correspondence with an identifier on the commodity.

18. (New) The promotion method according to claim 15, wherein the commodity code is added to the point information according to information of a bar code related to and indicated on the commodity.

19. (New) A promotion system comprising:

a point issuing unit for issuing to a user, when a commodity is sold by an automatic vending machine, point information related to predetermined points and added with system information about a distributor of the commodity;

sending means for sending, from the point issuing unit to a center unit, the point information added with the system information together with identification information of the user by operations of a portable terminal carried by the user;

receiving means, disposed in the center unit, for receiving the point information and the identification information of the user sent from the sending means;

managing means, disposed in the center unit, for separately managing services to be provided to the user according to the system information added to the point information received at the receiving means in association with the distributor of the commodity; and

service providing means for providing a predetermined service to the user by referring to the services managed by the managing means.

20. (New) The promotion system according to claim 19, wherein:

the point information includes at least one of a commodity code unique to the commodity, date information when the commodity is sold, price information of the commodity and an area code related to a place where a machine having sold the commodity is installed; and

the center unit comprises changing means for collectively changing the services to be provided to the user according to at least one of a kind commodity, a date when the commodity is sold, a price of the commodity and a place where the machine having sold the commodity is installed.

21. (New) A promotion system comprising:

a point issuing unit for issuing, to a user, point information related to predetermined points when a commodity is sold by an automatic vending machine;

first sending means for sending the point information issued from the point issuing unit to a system terminal provided in correspondence with a distributor of the commodity together with

identification information of the user by operations of a portable terminal carried by the user;

second sending means, provided in association with the distributor of the commodity, for sending the point information sent from the first sending means and added with system information about the distributor of the commodity to a center unit together with the identification information of the user;

receiving means, disposed in the center unit, for receiving the point information and the identification information of the user sent from the second sending means;

managing means, disposed in the center unit, for separately managing services to be provided to the user according to the system information added to the point information received by the receiving means in association with the distributor of the commodity; and

service providing means for providing a predetermined service to the user by referring to the services managed by the managing means.

22. (New) The promotion system according to claim 21, wherein:

the point information includes at least one of a commodity code unique to the commodity, date information when the commodity is sold, price information of the commodity and an area code related to a place where a machine having sold the commodity is installed; and

the center unit comprises changing means for collectively changing the services to be provided to the user according to at least one of a kind commodity, a date when the commodity is sold, a price of the commodity and a place where the machine having sold the commodity is installed.